

### **III. REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 and 13-33 are currently pending. Claims 9-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 13, 16, and 30 have been amended. No new matter is introduced by these amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Applicants also note with appreciation the indication that claims 12, 16, and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Office Action's rejections, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of dependent claim 12 into independent claim 1, and have rewritten claims 16 and 30 in independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these claims pass to allowance.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

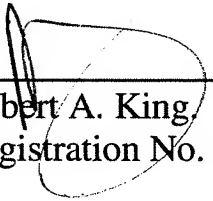
No additional fee is believed to be required. Nevertheless, in the event that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requires any additional fee, please charge such fee to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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